GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5688
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
VIOLATION OF INDO-SRI LANKA AGREEMENT
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government has violated the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement on Kachchativu by curtailing the traditional rights of Indian fishermen to fish and dry the nets in that Island;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the rights of our fishermen as provided in the agreement;

(c) whether the traditional rights given to the Indian fishermen as enshrined in the agreement have been held in abeyance since 1983;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) No. The Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary was settled through the Agreements of 1974 and 1976.In terms of these Agreements, the island of Kachchativu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Boundary Line.There is no change in Government`s position in this regard.

The traditional rights of our fishermen regarding access to Kachchativu as provided in these agreements is for resting, drying of nets and attending the annual festival of St. Antony. The traditional rights do not include the right to fishing in and around Kachchativu.

(b-e) Does not arise.